(c) All the airlines have been advised that they should display on their respective websites various facilities offered to the passengers, both free and chargeable, in a conspicuous manner so that passengers are aware of these before booking air tickets. Operators are also advised to maintain schedule integrity.

Increase in flying age of pilots

717. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently increased flying age of pilots from 60 to 65 years subject to certain conditions;

(b) if so, the details of conditions subject to which Government would enhance flying age of pilots;

(c) the efforts Government are making to upgrade IGRUA to increase output of trainees from present 40 trainees per year;

(d) to what extent flying training institutes in Andhra Pradesh like Andhra Pradesh Aviation Academy, Flytech Academy and Wings Aviation help in increasing flying trainees in the country; and

(e) the reasons for not setting up of more flying institutions in the country to meet its requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have amended the Aircraft Rules, 1937 to allow pilots with valid licenses to utilize the privileges of their licenses to engage in commercial air transport operations upto the age of 65 years, subject to medical fitness and certain other conditions. No persons holding pilot's licence issued under the Aircraft Rules and attained the age of 60 years shall act as Pilot-in-Command or Co-Pilot of an aircraft engaged in Commercial Air Transport Operations unless it is operated in multi-crew environment and the other pilot is less than 60 years of age.

(c) The Government propose to upgrade Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareli at an estimated cost of Rs. 57 crores, approximately. This includes induction of single engine and multi engine aircraft, rebuilding of helicopters, modernisation of runway, construction

of additional buildings for hostel, hangar and office and acquisition of the adjacent Sultanpur airfield. The upgradation would increase the capacity from 40 trainees per year to 100 trainees per year.

(d) There are three flying clubs operational in Andhra Pradesh namely Andhra Pradesh Aviation Academy, Flytech Aviation and Wings Aviation(P) Limited. Together these clubs have trained 325 candidates during the last three years.

(e) It is proposed to establish a new flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra to augment the existing training infrastructure in the country.

Re-employment of retired pilots

†718. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) since when the shortage of pilots in Indian and other airlines is being felt;

(b) the estimated shortage of the pilots in the country at present;

(c) whether the services of retired pilots in different airlines are being taken;

(d) what are the arrangements about their health check up prior to their moving for the flight; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to remove the shortage of the pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As of now there is no shortage of pilots in Indian airlines. However, some airlines like Alliance Air, Jet Airways, Air Sahara etc. are facing shortage of pilots since 2005.

(b) At present there is an estimated shortfall of 619 commercial pilots (which includes shortfall made good by deployment of foreigners as Pilot Commanders) being felt by scheduled airlines operators.

(c) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.